Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 224011
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:REN
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON
P:PCHABIB (SUBSTANCE)
S/S-O:
----------014316 180449Z /14
O 180445Z SEP 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 224011

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, MILI, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON
REF: TEL AVIV 6988

1. IN YOUR SUNDAY MEETING WITH WEIZMAN, YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED STATE 223973 HAD ARRIVED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH YOUR SATURDAY TALK WITH HIM REPORTED TEL AVIV 6988. WE CAREFULLY WEIGHED ALL HE HAD SAID TO YOU AND REAFFIRMED THAT EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS RE US POSITION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE NEW TACTICAL SITUATION AS DESCRIBED BY WEIZMAN DOES NOT ALTER OUR BASIC JUDGMENTS.

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IT REMAINS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT SARKIS WOULD BE ABLE TO USE THE NEW SITUATION AS LEVERAGE TO SECURE A MORE EXTENSIVE PALESTINIAN WITHDRAWAL.

2. EXPLAIN TO WEIZMAN THAT THERE IS AN OVER-RIDING NEED TO STABLIZE THE SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BY GOING ALONG WITH THE CEASE-FIRE AND PULLBACK ARRANGE

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MENTS, AS DESCRIBED TO YOU IN YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.

3. AS FOR THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION IN THE KHIAM AND TELL SHARIFAH AREAS, WE COULD NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLY ACCEPT AN ESCALATION IN THE FIGHTING. IF A PALESTINIAN COUNTER-ATTACK DEVELOPS, THE ISRAELIS UNDER NO RPT NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE DRAWN IN FURTHER AND SHOULD ENCOURAGE HADDAD TO WITHDRAW HIS FORCES IF THERE IS NO MILITARY ALTERNATIVE, GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF ISRAELI SUPPORT.

4. TELL WEIZMAN THAT WE VERY MUCH REGRET THAT THIS OPERATION TOOK PLACE AND THAT WE PARTICULARLY REGRET THAT ISRAEL DECIDED TO SUPPORT IT, AT A TIME WHEN WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAEL, LEBANON, AND SYRIA TO FIND A PRACTICAL WAY OF BEGINNING TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH. THIS ACTION COULD UNDERMINE THE PRACTICAL AND DETERMINED EFFORTS OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION.

5. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, PROCEED TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTION CONTAINED STATE 223973. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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